



Everything Tuition

Nicole Thuotte
Montana Office of Public Instruction

What Constitutes “Tuition”?

- FP-14 Out of District Attendance
- FP-14A Special Rate Tuition
 - Option A Tuition
 - Option B Tuition
 - Option C Tuition
 - Programs Exceeding Average Cost
- FP-15 Day Treatment and Out of State Attendance
- In-District Special Education Permissive Tuition Levy Calculator
- Payments for Students in Youth Detention Facilities

FP-14 Student Attendance Agreement



Mandatory Tuition

- The child resides closer to the school that the child wishes to attend and more than 3 miles from the school the child would attend in the resident district
- The child resides in a location where, because of geographic conditions, it is impractical to attend school in the district of residence (as determined by the county transportation committee):
 - The length of the bus ride is in excess of 1 hour for an elementary child; or
 - The distance traveled is more than 40 miles from the child's home (one way) on a dirt road or greater than 60 miles total on the shortest passable route; or
 - The condition of the road or a geographic barrier prohibits safe travel between home and school

Mandatory Tuition

- The child is a member of a family required to send another child outside of the elementary district to attend high school and the child of elementary age may more conveniently attend the elementary where the high school is located:
 - The child must reside more than 3 miles from the elementary school in the resident district
- The child is under the protective care of a state agency or has been adjudicated to be a youth in need of intervention or a delinquent youth
- The child is required to attend school outside the district of residence as a result of placement in foster care or a group home licensed by the state

Discretionary Tuition

- The parent/guardian wishes to have their child attend a school outside their district of residence
- A district contracts with another district for the provision of services (e.g., 7-8 programs, full-time kindergarten, etc.)

Question 1: Who pays tuition?

The type of tuition situation determines who pays tuition

- Parent/Guardian
 - Elementary student to attend where high school sibling attends
 - Parent/guardian request
- The State
 - Student is under the care of a state agency or court
 - Student has been placed outside the resident district into a foster or group home

Question 1: Who pays tuition?

The type of tuition situation determines who pays tuition

- District of Residence
 - Student lives closer to the school they wish to attend and at least 3 miles from school in the resident district
 - Geographic barrier
 - Special district programs

Question 2: Which students may attend under a tuition agreement?

Different types of tuition have different approval/rejection criteria:

- Mandatory Tuition – Mandatory, Except for Insufficient Room or Overcrowding
- Discretionary Tuition – Discretionary, According to Tuition Policy and/or Agreement With Another District

Question 3: What's the selection criteria for students attending under discretionary agreements?

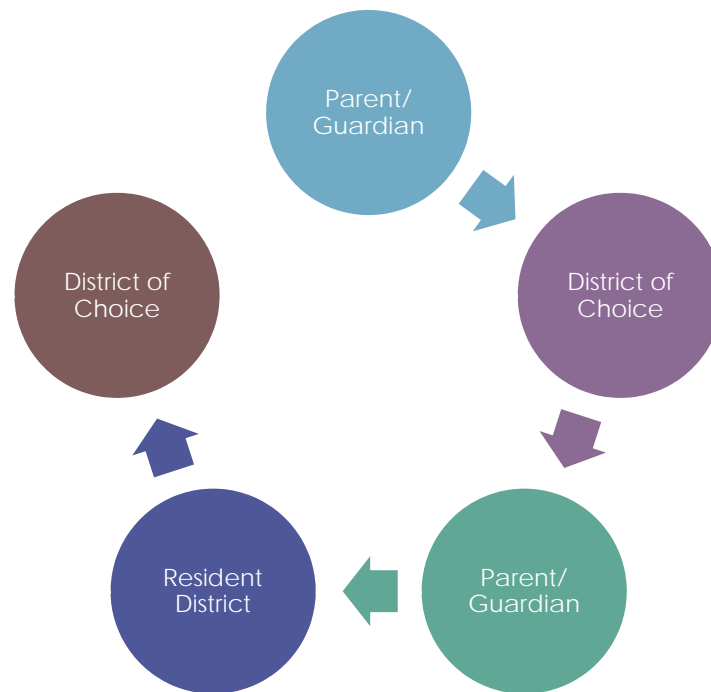
A solid tuition policy provides a basis for both denying and accepting students

Elements of a good tuition policy:

1. Consistency;
2. Clarity; and
3. Alignment with the law

TUITION POLICY EXERCISE

How is a Discretionary Student Attendance Agreement (FP-14) Completed?



Tuition Timelines

- Within 10 days of application the district of choice shall notify the parent/guardian of the child and the trustees of the district of residence of the anticipated date of approval/disapproval of Agreement
- Within 10 days of approval/disapproval the trustees shall provide copy of Agreement to parent/guardian and resident district
- Within 15 days of receipt the resident district shall approve, disapprove or acknowledge receipt of Agreement

Tuition Rates

Tuition rates are set by law – not more than 20% of the maximum per-ANB rate for the year of attendance

- May set different rates for different entities
 - Parent/Guardian
 - State
 - Another district
- May waive tuition

State-Paid Tuition

The state pays for tuition in two instances:

- The student is under the protective care of a state agency or has been adjudicated to be a youth in need of intervention or a delinquent youth; or
- The child is required to attend school outside of the district as the result of a placement in foster care or a group home licensed by the state

State-Paid Tuition

Tuition agreements must be signed by a state agency, court, or tribal entity responsible for removing the child from their resident district, except for students placed in group homes.

Where students have been placed in group homes by the parent/guardian, either the parent/guardian OR the group home manager may sign the Agreement. The group home manager may not sign the Agreement for students placed by a state agency, court, or tribal agency.

State-Paid Tuition

A group home, for state-paid tuition purposes, is a facility licensed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Facilities licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry do not qualify as group homes for the purposes of tuition.

A foster home may include a kinship foster home, so long as the placement is required by a state agency, court, or tribal entity.

A stack of books with a blue background. The books are stacked vertically on the left side of the image, showing their spines and edges. The background is a solid light blue color.

FP-14A Special Tuition Rates

Four Options for Additional Tuition

- Option A – based on a student's hours of service in the Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Option B – based on specialized service or equipment provided to a student with an IEP
- Option C – based on the average cost of a program in which a student is enrolled
- Programs Exceeding Average District Cost – based on specialized service or equipment provided to a student without a disability

Option A Calculation

Students are assigned minutes of service in the IEP.
Convert the minutes to hours and calculate the ratio of service hours to a maximum of 30 hours of service per week (a minimum of 15 hours of service is required for Option A Special Rate tuition)

Option B Calculation

When the Special Education costs for a student exceed that of Option A, use Option B.

Option B includes the actual cost of services provided to a student as indicated on their IEP. The costs are for special education and related services unique to the student, including specialized one-on-one staff and specialized equipment and supplies. The actual cost excludes:

- The costs for removal of architectural barriers;
- Prorated costs of ordinary special education services such as teacher salaries and benefits; and
- Costs of equipment and supplies commonly used in special education programs.

Option C Calculation

Tuition rate for specialized school district programs. Students may enroll in the district specifically for the purpose of attending the program.

- Must submit a written description of the program and the financials used to determine the Option C rate
 - Salaries for teachers, administrators, paras
 - Benefits for teachers, administrators, paras
 - Program costs (mail, office, classroom)
 - Equipment and supply costs

Programs Exceeding Average District Cost

Calculated the same as Option B, but for students without disabilities in high cost programs. The maximum tuition rate for this option is \$2,500.

Who Is Charged Special Rate Tuition?

Only the state and the resident district may be charged tuition. Parents may not be charged additional tuition for special education students.

Special Tuition Rates are charged in addition to the regular tuition rate, no in place of it.

FP-15 Special Tuition Rates



What is FP-15 Tuition?

Following the close of the school fiscal year, the trustees of a district shall report to the superintendent of public instruction:

- State-paid tuition claims (FP-14 Student Attendance Agreements) for the previous year;
- The names, districts of attendance, and the amount of tuition paid by the district for resident students attending public schools out of state in the previous year; and
- The names, schools of attendance and amount of tuition to be paid by the district for resident students attending day treatment programs under approved IEP's at private, nonsectarian school in the previous year.

What is a “private, non-sectarian school?”

Approved Day Treatment Facilities:

1. AWARE, Anaconda (operated in conjunction with the school district)
2. Intermountain, Helena and Kalispell
3. Youth Dynamics, Boulder and Bozeman
4. New Day, Billings
5. Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, Billings (the EL is public, the HS is private)

Special Consideration for Day Treatment Students

The district cannot include students attending these day treatment programs in their ANB counts (regardless of whether or not the student is attending under the provisions of an IEP).

If the district is paying for educational services, the student should remain enrolled in the resident district, but be excluded from the ANB count.

FP-15 Tuition Report

- District Information
- Student name, State ID, grade, enrollment start and end dates and the amount of tuition paid
- Must include the bill from the day treatment facility

How much tuition will I receive?

FP-15 tuition is actually a DSA reimbursement for what you would have been eligible for had the student been enrolled in the district in the prior year.

Tuition Calculation

Example: Student was enrolled at ABC elementary from August 27, 2014 through September 30, 2014. The student was then transferred to a day treatment program from October 1, 2014 through March 10, 2015. The student re-enrolled in the district and continued enrollment through the end of the year.

The district would have been entitled to a full ANB for the student (use the maximum rate of \$5,348 for an EL student). The state share of DSA is 44.7%, so the district would receive a maximum tuition payment of \$2,390.56.

The calculated rate of tuition (\$2,390.56) is compared to the tuition charged by the day treatment facility, and the district is paid the lesser of the two amounts.

Out of State Tuition

Out of state tuition is calculated the same way as day treatment tuition. Districts receive the lesser of the amount charged by the out of state district or the amount of tuition using the DSA reimbursement calculation.

The maximum tuition rate for a child attending school in another state or province is calculated by totaling all the expenditures for all district budgeted funds from the preceding school fiscal year and dividing that amount by the October enrollment in the preceding school fiscal year.

TUITION CALCULATION EXERCISE



In-District Special Education Permissive Levy Tuition Calculator

Tuition Levy Language

New addition to tuition in the 2013 Legislative Session (20-5-324 (5)(a)(iii):

In addition to use of a tuition levy to pay tuition for out-of-district attendance for a resident pupil, a school district may also include in its tuition levy an amount necessary to pay for the full costs of providing a free appropriate public education, as defined in 20-7-401, in the district to any child with a disability who lives in the district. The amount of the levy imposed for the costs associated with educating a child with a disability under this subsection (5)(a)(iii) is limited to the actual cost of service under the child's individualized education program minus:

- (A) The student's state special education payment;*
- (B) The student's federal special education payment;*
- (C) The student's per-ANB amount;*
- (D) The prorated portion of the district's basic entitlement for each qualifying student; and*
- (E) The prorated portion of the district's general fund payments in 20-9-327 through 20-9-330 for each qualifying student.*

Tuition Levy Language

Highlight #1:

"include in its tuition levy an amount necessary to pay for the full costs of providing a free appropriate public education, as defined in 20-7-401"

- Special education and related services provided at public expense without charge
- Meet accreditation standards for public education and the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Tuition Levy Language

Highlight #2:

“to any child with a disability who lives in the district”

The provisions of the tuition levy apply **only** to resident students – and **does not** apply to students attending under a Student Attendance Agreement.

Tuition Levy Language

Highlight #3:

“limited to the actual cost of service under the child’s individualized education program ”

- Must adjust the levy amount for actual cost – even if you knowingly underestimate the levy.
- The costs that you levy for must be specified in the student’s IEP (example: you may not levy for a para if para support is not mentioned in the student’s IEP).

Tuition Levy Language

Highlight #4:

- (A) The student's state special education payment;*
- (B) The student's federal special education payment;*
- (C) The student's per-ANB amount;*
- (D) The prorated portion of the district's basic entitlement for each qualifying student; and*
- (E) The prorated portion of the district's general fund payments in 20-9-327 through 20-9-330 for each qualifying student.*

All of these things have been calculated for you when you use the In-District Special Education Permissive Levy Calculator!!

Per-student v. All-student

Example: Clancy EL

3 students - \$35,000, \$20,000, \$5,000 – all grades K-6

Per-student –
Student #1:
\$35,000

	Elementary	
	2015	2016
Student's Total SPED Costs K-6 or K-8**		35,000
Student's Total SPED Costs 7-8*		
Student's Total SPED Costs 9-12		
a. SPED Allowable Cost Payment	40,397.18	46,100.50
Current Year ANB	249	268
	162.24	172.02
b. Federal Allocation	55,031.00	56,965.00
AIM October Enrollment	242	256
	227	223
c. Per Student Entitlement	5,226	5,348
	6,691	6,847
d. Basic Entitlement E	-	50,000
Basic Entitlement M	-	-
Basic Entitlement H		
Budget Limit ANB E	-	208
Budget Limit ANB M	-	-
Budget Limit ANB H		
	-	240.38
e. 5 Funding Components	123,564.41	131,206.99
Budget Limit ANB	264	268
	468.05	489.58
Total Amount to Levy		28,527.50

	Elementary	
	2015	2016
Student's Total SPED Costs K-6 or K-8**		20,000
Student's Total SPED Costs 7-8*		
Student's Total SPED Costs 9-12		
a. SPED Allowable Cost Payment	40,397.18	46,100.50
Current Year ANB	249	268
	162.24	172.02
b. Federal Allocation	55,031.00	56,965.00
AIM October Enrollment	242	256
	227	223
c. Per Student Entitlement	5,226	5,348
	6,691	6,847
d. Basic Entitlement E	-	50,000
Basic Entitlement M	-	-
Basic Entitlement H		
Budget Limit ANB E	-	208
Budget Limit ANB M	-	-
Budget Limit ANB H		
	-	240.38
e. 5 Funding Components	123,564.41	131,206.99
Budget Limit ANB	264	268
	468.05	489.58
Total Amount to Levy		13,527.50

Per-student –
Student #2:
\$20,000

Per-student –
Student #3:
\$5,000

	Elementary	
	2015	2016
Student's Total SPED Costs K-6 or K-8**		5,000
Student's Total SPED Costs 7-8*		
Student's Total SPED Costs 9-12		
a. SPED Allowable Cost Payment	40,397.18	46,100.50
Current Year ANB	249	268
	162.24	172.02
b. Federal Allocation	55,031.00	56,965.00
AIM October Enrollment	242	256
	227	223
c. Per Student Entitlement	5,226	5,348
	6,691	6,847
d. Basic Entitlement E	-	50,000
Basic Entitlement M	-	-
Basic Entitlement H		
Budget Limit ANB E	-	208
Budget Limit ANB M	-	-
Budget Limit ANB H		
	-	240.38
e. 5 Funding Components	123,564.41	131,206.99
Budget Limit ANB	264	268
	468.05	489.58
Total Amount to Levy		(1,472.50)

All-student:
\$60,000

	Elementary	
	2015	2016
Student's Total SPED Costs K-6 or K-8**		60,000
Student's Total SPED Costs 7-8*		
Student's Total SPED Costs 9-12		
a. SPED Allowable Cost Payment	40,397.18	46,100.50
Current Year ANB	249	268
	162.24	172.02
b. Federal Allocation	55,031.00	56,965.00
AIM October Enrollment	242	256
	227	223
c. Per Student Entitlement	5,226	5,348
	6,691	6,847
d. Basic Entitlement E	-	50,000
Basic Entitlement M	-	-
Basic Entitlement H		
Budget Limit ANB E	-	208
Budget Limit ANB M	-	-
Budget Limit ANB H		
	-	240.38
e. 5 Funding Components	123,564.41	131,206.99
Budget Limit ANB	264	268
	468.05	489.58
Total Amount to Levy		53,527.50

Youth Detention Facility Payments



Youth Detention Facilities

Districts may receive a bill the student's resident district \$20 per day for educational costs for a student detained more than 9 consecutive days in the prior fiscal year. The bill must be sent to the district by June 30th, and the district must send payment to the county treasurer of the county where the facility is located no later than July 15th.

Youth Detention Facilities

Missoula County Juvenile Detention Facility (Missoula)

Flathead County Juvenile Detention Facility (Kalispell)

Richland County Juvenile Detention Facility (Sidney)

Cascade County Juvenile Detention Facility (Great Falls)

Troy Juvenile Detention Facility

Ted Lechner Youth Services Center (Billings)

RYO Juvenile Facility (Galen)

Youth Detention Facilities

- Review the bill from the youth detention facility and verify that all students listed are residents of your district
- The district must pay the obligation from either the district's tuition fund or the impact aid fund (20-9-130, MCA)



Tuition Accounting

When is tuition paid?

With the exception of parent/guardian paid tuition and some district paid tuition (subject to agreement between districts), tuition is paid a year in arrears.

- Resident districts – required to pay the first half by 12/31 and the second half by 6/15 in the fiscal year following attendance
- State-paid tuition – paid in the fiscal year following attendance, after the claim is submitted in MAEFAIRS (no earlier than August following the year of attendance)

Where are tuition receipts deposited?

With a few exceptions, FP-14 and FP-14A tuition receipts are credited to the district general fund (transportation receipts are credited to the district transportation fund):

- Receipts for students without disabilities in a program exceeding average district costs that exceed the prior years' receipts may be deposited into the miscellaneous programs fund (and used to support that program)
- Receipts for a child with disability that exceed the tuition for a student without disabilities may be deposited into the miscellaneous programs fund (and used to support that program)
- Any other tuition receipts for the current year that exceed receipts from the prior year may be deposited into the miscellaneous programs fund (and used in a manner provided for in that fund)

Where are tuition receipts deposited?

FP-15 tuition receipts (DSA reimbursements) are deposited into the district tuition fund and must be used specifically to pay obligations for resident students attending public schools out of state or for students attending day treatment programs under the provisions of an IEP.

What are allowed expenditures from the tuition fund?

- Day treatment payments
- Out of state tuition payments
- Payments to other districts for resident students
- Expenditures related to the provision of educational services for an in-district special education student
- Youth detention facility payments

Expenditures NOT Allowed

A district may contract with a private or public entity for the provision of a Montana student's education. If the district contracts and pays for the provision of a Montana student's education, the district may include the student in the district's per-ANB count (subject to specific limitations). However, these payments are NOT considered tuition and the district must pay for the services from the district's general fund or from federal funds (if it's an allowable cost). The district shall not use the tuition fund for payments to private education programs.

Sneak-Peak at the New Tuition Handbook



Tuition Handbook

Not yet published – please review and provide comments and feedback to:

Nicole Thuotte

nthuotte@mt.gov

(406) 444-4524

Questions, Comments, Feedback??